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AFRICA

Release the Hounds: Archeology edition

 By **The Wild Hunt** | September 30, 2021

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There are many articles and essays about new archaeology finds that are of interest to modern Pagans, Heathens, and polytheists out there, more than our team can write about in-depth in any given week. Therefore, The Wild Hunt must unleash the hounds in order to round them all up. Here are our favorite picks this month.

WHITE SANDS, N.M. – New research published in the journal [Science](#) offers a new timeline for when humans first inhabited North America and places them in what is now New Mexico several thousand years earlier than scientists have previously thought.



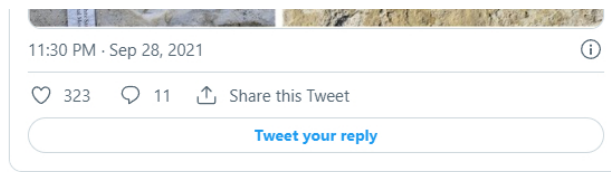
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Newly discovered fossil human footprints reveal nearly 2,000 years of human occupation in North America during the height of the Last Glacial Maximum, according to new research in [Science](#).

Read more: fcd.ly/7du6ar1



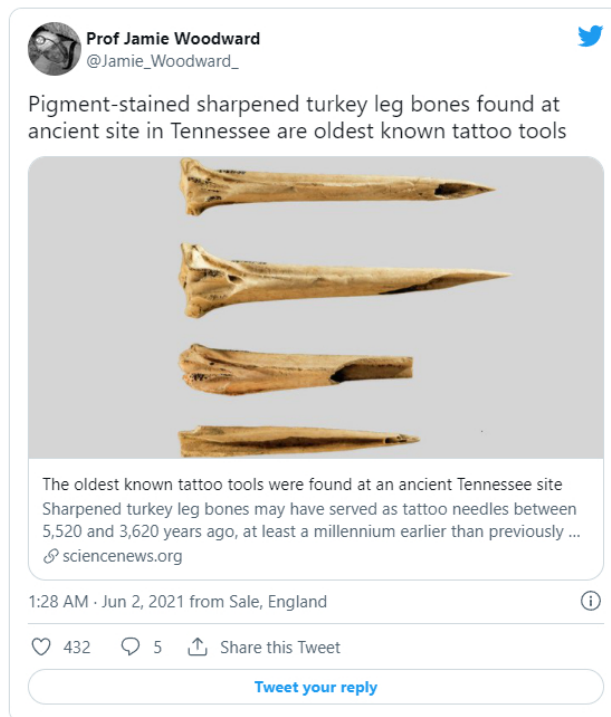


The discovery came after what has been dubbed as “ghost tracks” were more closely examined and radio-carbon dated by researchers. The ghost tracks which are actually fossilized footprints are visible when the ground is wet, but disappear once the ground dries out. Researchers dated the footprints by examining the seeds of an aquatic plant, *Ruppia cirrhosa*, often referred to as ditch grass. The ditch grass grew on the shores of the long dried-up lake, and the seeds were present in multiple layers of soil both above and below the footprints.

Dating the age of the seeds helped researchers determine that the footprints were created between 21,000 and 23,000 years ago. This new research is important because prior estimates of early human habitation were dependent on artifacts that may have been moved or shifted from their original positions within the layers of the earth, or the question of stone tools possibly being natural formations.

The dating of the footprints also answers the definitive question of whether or not humans were present in North America prior to the Ice Age. The new research would seem to indicate that they were, by several thousand years.

NASHVILLE – The microscopic examination by researchers of two turkey leg bones with sharpened tips and stained with both black and red ochre, have been identified as tattooing tools. Archaeologist **Aaron Deter-Wolf and his team** at the Tennessee Division of Archaeology in Nashville believe the bird bones stained with pigment are the **oldest tattooing implements** found in the world so far. It dates their use by Native Americans to between 5,520 and 3,620 years ago.



The bones were found in a man’s burial pit within the archeological dig site in Fernvale during an excavation in 1985. In addition to the bones, excavators found what they believe was evidence of a tattoo kit. The tips of the bones showed wear consistent with that found on other tattooing bones. Shells excavated from the site also showed pigment stains and researchers believe they were likely used to hold the inks used for tattooing.

Fernvale is located in middle Tennessee in Williamson county about 10 miles west of the town of Franklin and also is the site of Harpeth Furnace which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

CAIRO, Egypt – **Archaeological excavations in the Temple of the Pharaohs** north of Cairo have revealed a literal treasure trove of artifacts that included a number of tools that

have revealed a literal treasure trove of artifacts that included a number of tools that researchers believe were used in daily spiritual rituals performed to the Goddess Hathor.

Among the items discovered are part of a limestone pillar that is a depiction of Hathor, and a number of incense burners made out of faience, a type of glazed ceramicware. One of the incense burners had a depiction of the head of the God Horus as decoration.



Another part of the find was a group of clay vessels used in various rituals to Hathor. Other items discovered included a small maternity chair, a large offering holder, a pure gold Eye of Horus, and the remains of golden scales used in the gilding of some other pieces.

Statuettes of the deities of Tawart and Djehuty were also found and identified.

Archeologists also unearthed a group of ivory carvings that display scenes of women carrying offerings and of daily life, including depictions of plants, birds, and animals. Yet another find was a partial royal painting of a king performing religious rituals in the temple and hieroglyphic texts etched into a large limestone lintel.

The names of two 26th dynasty kings, "Waha Ip-Ra" and "Ahmose II" and the five titles of King Psamtik I in hieroglyphic inscriptions were also uncovered.

Additionally, a large limestone well for sacred water and a mud-brick Ptolemaic bath consisting of a water basin, a place for heating water, and a bathtub were also found.

ANDHRA PRADESH, India – A man tilling his land in the village of Motupalli in Prakasam district **unearthed an 800-year-old stone statue of Hindu God Ganesha.**

The statue of Ganesha depicts the God unadorned of his usual headdress but is wearing a naga yagnopavita (sacred thread comprised of a snake), seated in a lotus position, and positioned on a lotus pedestal. Two of the statue's four hands are missing.

The statue dates to the Cholas period in the 12th century. Members of the Motupalli heritage society team transferred the statue of Ganesha to the Kodanda Ramaswamy temple in the port town of Motupalli.

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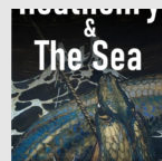


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NeoWayland · 7 days ago

Intriguing.

1 ^ | v · Share



A. Marina Fournier · 7 days ago

I'd read about the footprints earlier this week, but the rest is news to me. I wonder what the "maternity chair" looks like, and how it compares to more modern birthing stools.

Foot structure seems a bit different. The arch seems unusually high for modern feet, and the heel to toes ratio is worse than mine.

The things I have to do to my shoes to keep the shoe heel on my foot! Laceups would probably help, but I kid you not, my feet are claustrophobic.

1 ^ | v · Share



NeoWayland → A. Marina Fournier · 6 days ago

My feet and I are not always on speaking terms. Shoes hurt.

^ | v · Share



Gallifreyan Tauri → NeoWayland · 6 days ago · edited

I *hate* shoes! Especially those damned pointy-toe ones they made us wear in the 1960s. Permanently deformed my big toes and now I have arthritis in them because of them! Fashion! Bah!

I have a sign on the wall when you come in my door. It says (In Russian, Spanish and Gallifreyan) "Shoes are **not** permitted in this establishment."

2 ^ | v · Share



NeoWayland → Gallifreyan Tauri · 6 days ago

nods I can tell you stories about how hard it is to find a decent looking pair **without** arch support. It's also hard to find men's shoes in my "size" that are wide

enough. my feet have enough issues, but putting them in shoes for very long is enough to start a strike on the spot.

I like the sign.

1 ^ | v - Share >



Andrea Joy, Wiccan Clergy → NeoWayland · 5 days ago

I have empathy for all of this because I have a 6&1/2 EEE foot as a woman. I was also pigeon toed as a child.

Finding shoes is always an adventure for me.

1 ^ | v - Share >



Lokisgodhi · 6 days ago

I find the tattooing tools interesting. So now we know that people were making bad decisions after binge drinking themselves insensate 5500 to 3600 years ago.

1 ^ | v - Share >



Marc Rhodes-Taylor · 6 days ago

fascinating report there, i particularly like the information on ancient egypt and egyptian deities as this ties in very closely with some work that i am doing right now, it has even given me some new ideas to work with and i thank you for that

^ | v - Share >



oberon · 6 days ago

Very exciting news to be sure. Folks who read Graham Hancock books will want to see the recent one "America Before", he covers a bit of this too. But years and years ago, 1970 or so, Elizabeth Gould Davis wrote "The First Sex" which actually was the first place I read about very old fossil foot prints. Not on the American continent, but as I recall, far older than what was considered conventional then. Her book neatly aligns with the later books by Gimbutas (sic) and perhaps Merlin Stone or others who wrote of pre-patriarchal times. Ms. Davis was a librarian, of course, so despite the mixed reception, I tend to believe her. I read it in the later '70s and have several copies that I occasionally loaned to people.

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